

## Community resources

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*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 08TASHKENT1201, TASHKENT TIDBITS OCTOBER 20, 2008 \

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08TASHKENT1201**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
<a href="#">08TASHKENT1201</a>	<a href="#">2008-10-20 12:40</a>	<a href="#">2011-08-30 01:44</a>	<a href="#">CONFIDENTIAL</a>	<a href="#">Embassy Tashkent</a>

Appears in these articles:

[http://www.letemps.ch/swiss\\_papers](http://www.letemps.ch/swiss_papers)

VZCZCXYZ0001  
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHNT #1201 2941240  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 201240Z OCT 08 ZDK  
FM AMEMBASSY TASHKENT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0435  
INFO RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 1128  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 4621  
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 2912  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 1571

174394 2008-10-20 12:40:00 08TASHKENT1201 Embassy Tashkent CONFIDENTIAL VZCZCXYZ0001\  
PP RUEHWEB\  
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DE RUEHNT #1201 2941240\  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH\  
P 201240Z OCT 08 ZDK\  
FM AMEMBASSY TASHKENT\  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0435\  
INFO RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY\  
RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY\  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 1128\  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 4621\  
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 2912\  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 1571\  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TASHKENT 001201 \

SIPDIS \

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/19/2018 \

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ECON](#) [UZ](#)

SUBJECT: TASHKENT TIDBITS OCTOBER 20, 2008 \

Classified By: POL-ECON Chief Nicholas Berliner for \  
reasons 1.4 b and d. \

UNDP and Uzbek Customs Launch New Web Site \

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[11](#). (C) The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and \  
Uzbekistan's State Customs Committee have launched a new \  
website ([www.customsreform.uz](http://www.customsreform.uz)), which will include updates on \  
the latest changes in Customs regulation and discussions of \  
the new Customs Code. An English-language version is in the \  
works. \

Non-Stop Service to Switzerland \

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[12](#). (C) Uzbekistan Airlines last week announced the expansion \  
of its route network to include a new non-stop flight linking \  
Tashkent and Geneva. At first glance this seems like an \  
unusual choice since the airline already serves several major \  
European hubs and Geneva is not a particularly large city; \  
Zurich is also a more of a gateway airport. We can't even \  
convince the Government of Uzbekistan to extend prison visit \  
agreements with the Geneva-based International Committee of \  
the Red Cross. The main reason may be that the new Uzbek \  
Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva happens to be \  
President Karimov's daughter, Gulnora Karimova, who would \  
otherwise be subjected to time-consuming layovers in Paris, \  
Frankfurt, or Milan on her commutes. The direct flight may \  
also prove popular with Uzbek "biznessmen" seeking to do \  
anonymous banking. \

Russian Ambassador Moving On \

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[13](#). (U) The Russian MFA reported on its website that the \  
Russian Ambassador to Tashkent, Farit Muhametshin, has been \  
appointed the head of the Federal Agency for Commonwealth of \  
Independent States (CIS) Affairs, Citizens Living Abroad, and \  
International Humanitarian Cooperation. The Charge \  
d'Affaires will be Vazyh Ibragimovich Serazaev until a new \  
envoy is named. In an October 18 article the Uzbek website \  
[uzmetronom.com](http://uzmetronom.com) credited Muhametshin, an ethnic Tatar, with \  
the "restoration of friendly and allied relations between the \  
states." \

Russia's Economy and Uzbek Migrants \

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[14](#). (C) The effect of the world economic crisis on Uzbekistan \  
was the topic of discussion at a meeting of embassy and IFI \  
economists hosted last week by the Tashkent office of the \  
EBRD. A significant portion of the discussion was devoted to \  
the effect a downturn in the Russian economy would have on \  
the up to 5 million Uzbek migrant laborers in Russia. A \  
representative of the Russian trade mission assured us that \  
the Russian migration service would be ruthless and efficient \  
in deporting undocumented laborers, but his assertion was met \  
with raised eyebrows. Other participants posited the more \  
believable notion that highly qualified Uzbeks working in \  
Russia will always find work and will remain through any \  
recession, whereas unskilled laborers employed mainly in the \  
construction industry may flood back to their family bases in \  
Uzbekistan. Given that officially acknowledged remittances \  
amounted to USD 1.6 billion in 2007 (nearly 9% of the Uzbek \  
GDP), a mass return of unskilled laborers could be the most \  
significant manifestation of the world economic crisis in \  
Uzbekistan. \

Iranian Ambassador Takes Four Months to Present Credentials \

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[15](#). (C) Iran's new ambassador to Uzbekistan Muhammad \

Keshovarzoda was in Tashkent for four months before \  
presenting his credentials to President Karimov on October \  
15. That Karimov was clearly in no hurry to receive \  
Keshovarzoda can be seen as a reflection of GOU attitudes \  
about Iran generally and suspicions about Tehran's motives in \  
the region. \  
NORLAND \